

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Original) Device for collecting various articles, such as scrap, containers or other objects floating on the surface of an aqueous environment, such as the sea or a river, this device, which is designed to be towed by one or two vessels, being composed essentially of at least one filtering pocket (1), such as a drag-net, for confinement of articles to be collected, and of a structure (2) on which the confinement pocket (1) is fixed, characterized in that the confinement pocket (1) is fixed in a separable manner over its entire length to said structure (2), and in that the structure (2) is an inflatable structure that is fixed to the outside of the pocket (1) and that when inflated keeps at least part of the pocket (1), especially next to the opening of said pocket (1), above and/or at the level of the surface of the water.

2. (Original) Device according to claim 1, wherein the inflatable structure (2) over more or less the entire length keeps at least part of the confinement pocket (1) above and/or essentially at the level of the surface (1') of the sea.

3. (Currently Amended) Device according to ~~one of~~
~~claims 1 and 2~~ claim 1, wherein the inflatable structure (2) is
lengthened beyond the opening of the confinement pocket (1) in
the form of two arms (2') of differing aspect to form an entry
guide for articles floating toward the opening of the pocket (1)
of the drag-net.

4. (Original) Device according to claim 3, wherein each
arm (2') is connected to the remainder of the inflatable
structure (2) via a removable link (9) such as an articulated
link of the hinge type to allow rapid separation of the arms
(2') from the remainder of the inflatable structure (2).

5. (Original) Device according to claim 4, wherein the
removable link (9) of hinge type is composed of two elements
(9B, 9A) respectively, 9B being integral with the arm (2), the
other, (9A), integral with the remainder of the inflatable
structure (2), said elements (9A, 9B) of the hinge (9) being
joined to one another via a removable axis (11) that allows
rapid separation between the arm (2) and the remainder of the
inflatable structure (2).

6. (Currently Amended) Device according to ~~one of~~
~~claims 3 to 5~~ claim 3, wherein each arm (2') preferably has the
shape of at least one inflatable fender and on its base along

its generatrices is provided with a skirt (3) with ballast.

7. (Currently Amended) Device according to ~~one of~~
~~claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1, wherein the inflatable structure (2) is
composed of a plurality of inflatable beams forming essentially
a U in the horizontal plane.

8. (Currently Amended) Device according to ~~one of~~
~~claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1, wherein in the vicinity of the entry
opening of the confinement pocket (1), there is an inflatable or
rigid frame in the shape of an arch (8), one edge of the opening
of the pocket (1) being fixed on this arched frame (8).

9. (Original) Device according to claim 8, wherein the
frame in the shape of an arch (8) is kept in the raised position
of the arch (8) by two arch supports (8A), each composed of at
least one element, preferably tubular, located in the vicinity
of the connecting zone between the arm (2') and the inflatable
structure (2) and joined to the arm (2) and/or the inflatable
structure (2), each arch support (8A) being used to house, in a
movable manner, an upright of the arch (8), the peak of the arch
(8) being used to fix one edge, the so-called upper edge of the
confinement pocket (1), preferably via a strap (8B).

10. (Currently Amended) Device according to ~~one of~~

~~claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1, wherein the confinement pocket (1) is connected to the inflatable structure (2) by a holding cable (12) that is threaded within the gaskets in the form of a loop (14), which gaskets are integral with the confinement pocket (1) and project through the eyelets (13) that are integral with the inflatable structure (2), disconnection of the inflatable structure/pocket being obtained by simply removing the holding cable (12).

11. (Currently Amended) Device according to one ~~of~~ ~~claims 1 to 10~~ claim 1, wherein the confinement pocket (1) has the shape of two pockets housed within one another, the outside pocket that forms the reinforcement being made of a material with less elasticity than that of the material comprising the inside confinement pocket.

12. (Currently Amended) Device according to ~~one of~~ ~~claims 1 to 11~~ claim 1, wherein the bottom of the confinement pocket (1) is equipped with a slide fastener to allow the pocket (1) to be emptied and re-used.

13. (Currently Amended) Device according to ~~one of~~
~~claims 3 to 12~~ claim 3, wherein the inflatable structure (2),
the arms (2') and the confinement pocket (1) can be separated
from one another.

14. (New) Device according to claim 2, wherein the
inflatable structure (2) is lengthened beyond the opening of the
confinement pocket (1) in the form of two arms (2') of differing
aspect to form an entry guide for articles floating toward the
opening of the pocket (1) of the drag-net.